



October 24, 2009

My fellow paddlers,

I want to thank everyone who came and supported the event. Racers, spectators, sponsors, volunteers and family and friends watching live at home. I have learned more than I could have imagined since Sunday. Many of you have weighed in on points which have given me ideas and a platform to build from and I appreciate that. Feel free to keep the feedback coming. It helps and I listen.

I want to thank the sponsors for their commitment and support. We have been working to grow the sport and create venues for us to showcase paddling and we are making some progress. I am excited about that. They have been wonderful and supportive from the beginning and more so even now.

I take the job of safety very seriously and my thoughts were always on that. Thankfully no one was seriously injured and because of that the powers that be want us back for next year. That's a big plus. Yes, they want us back!

I am meeting with all the agencies next week to discuss how to do this better.

Topics will be:

Alternative course for bad weather conditions

Elite racer designation to allow Elites to continue.

Better intra agency communications to create better decision making regarding the event.

The start!

The start...I spoke to many people about the start prior to the race and the system I had in place was what this group thought would work...it wasn't perfect and now we know it has to be revamped. I have spoken to several people about it and I am working to make it right.

Qualifying racers...this is the hardest job. I personally spoke to or emailed all the participants in the race. I was certain everyone was capable. Racers have bad days and god knows I have been munched a few times in conditions. I remember my first Blackburn...I thought I was prepared but it was a far bigger undertaking than I expected...I ended up just fine but learned a lot about racing. It made me a better racer and more prepared for the subsequent races. We all have had an

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experience like that where a certain race, which we prepared for, was a little more than we expected. How do we avoid that? We have to allow people to challenge themselves to the edge of their comfort zone and just beyond...that's racing isn't it? I think it is and I want people to be prepared for this race but also able to challenge themselves for the self satisfaction of it all.

The rules and the money...I am working with the Mayor's office to come up with race policy that will carry on for years to come. It will outline races that are called off, abbreviated races, prize money, results and many other loose ends which need to be addressed. I am working hard to get the prize money taken care of in a fair manner for everyone for this year. I know this is very important and we have a goal of early next week...Tuesday/Wed to have an answer. We are consulting other world class events in NYC to take some advice and create a plan. I am working with Champion Chip to get the standings posted.

Many of you have expressed anger and frustration and this may be a cliché but, "No one is suffering more than me right now." An even larger group have expressed support and understanding. New York is one of the greatest places on the planet and also one of the more complex. I am proud to have created an event here for all of us to enjoy and plan, with all the fabric of my being, to continue and improve this race. If I may quote two famous singers..."Bite the Big Apple Don't Mind the Maggots!" (*that is Mick Jagger for you folks in the hinter lands who don't get pop culture*) and "If you can make it there you can make it anywhere...New York!" (*Francis Albert Sinatra*)

Ok, just for grins and giggles...the beloved Governor of California, "I'll be back!" (*You know who ;)*

Yours in the brotherhood of paddling,

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